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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,608	07/30/2003	Isao Mochizuki	116628	6126

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EXAMINER

CHOW, DOON Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2629

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification, as originally filed, does not provide support for "*at least a first and second strain sensor and a center of the base part defining an X-axis operating state of the stick member, and at least a third and fourth strain sensor and the center of the base part defining a Y-axis operating state of the stick member; and trimmable chip resistors disposed on the sensor substrate at a location other than the X-axis and Y-axis operating state*".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo et al. (5640178) in view of Karasawa (JP 2002157063).

Endo discloses a portable computer such as the lap-top type comprising a pointing device for moving a cursor displayed on the display, the pointing device being arranged in a keyboard (col. 1, lines 60-63); wherein the pointing device includes a sensor substrate (51, Figs. 13-14) having first (upper) and second (lower) surfaces; a stick member including a base part (57b, Fig. 13) mounted to the first surface of the sensor substrate; and a plurality of strain sensors provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate (col. 9, lines 40-45) for detecting an operating state of the stick member, the strain sensors being provided on the sensor substrate at positions where a part of each strain sensor overlaps with a lower surface of the base part of the stick member (see Figs. 15-16). The lap-top computer inherently comprises a main unit on which the keyboard is mounted, and the display which is connected with an edge of the main unit so that the display is opened/closed with respect to the main unit.

Endo does not explicitly disclose the base part being adhered to the first surface of the sensor substrate. However Endo, in a different embodiment, discloses mounting a sensor substrate to a base by screws, locking means, or adhering means (col. 4, line 62 to col. 5, lines 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to use the adhering means to mount the base part (57b) to the first surface of the sensor substrate so that the mounting holes (58a, Fig. 13) can be eliminated.

Endo fails to disclose trimmable chip resistors disposed on the sensor substrate.

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Karasawa, in the same input field, discloses a pointing device comprising a plurality of trimmable chip resistors (41, Figs. 7-8) disposed on a sensor substrate at locations outside of an X-axis and Y-axis operating state (see Fig. 7), each trimmable chip resistor being connected in series with each strain sensor (Fig. 8).

In light of Karasawa, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use Karasawa's trimmable chip resistors as the resistors in Endo's processing circuit because a highly accurately adjusted low resistance value can be obtained from the trimmable chip resistors.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

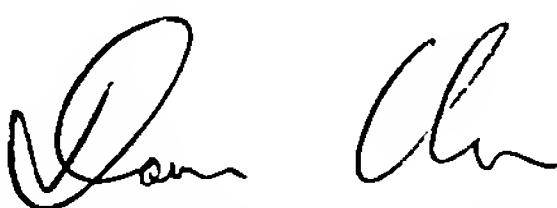
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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis-Doon Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-7767. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Dennis-Doon Chow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629

D. Chow
April 4, 2007